

The Arizona BEEHIVE

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Serving Arizona Members of
The Church of Jesus Christ
of Latter-day Saints

Light THE World

Photo by JimmyPaderta.com

By Merry Gordon

ANGELS *we have heard* ON HIGH!

Musical Missionaries Change Lives With Song

Most missionaries recall fond but typical memories of their service, like zone conferences or convert baptisms. But a group of missionaries from Arizona will take a unique memory home with them: recording sessions in a music studio.

Brother Rick Dalton, the ward mission leader of the Kleinman Park Ward in the Mesa Alma Stake, has

been recording with his missionaries for years.

With permission from the mission president, Dalton and his missionaries began recording songs in a friend's studio. All but two or three of their recordings are original songs, and in Dalton's words, "they were just inspired."

Dalton himself is a lifelong musician. At fifteen, he was playing drums

in a teen nightclub in El Centro, California, and has been in a variety of bands since.

"There's been no period longer than twelve months where I wasn't in a band," Dalton laughs. "Classic bands, rock bands, blues and jazz bands, easy listening—you name it, I've played it." Eventually, Dalton became a police officer and, when he retired, a high school teacher, giving guitar lessons

to "a lot of kids with talent," he says. American Idol singer/songwriter alums Brooke White and Evie Clair were among some of his former students, he says.

Dalton quickly discovered that his real love was for missionary work.

"I have this thing," he says. "I just love to serve and help missionaries."

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Sister Maycee Olsen, who wrote "Lifted," performs in the studio.

Photo by Rick Dalton

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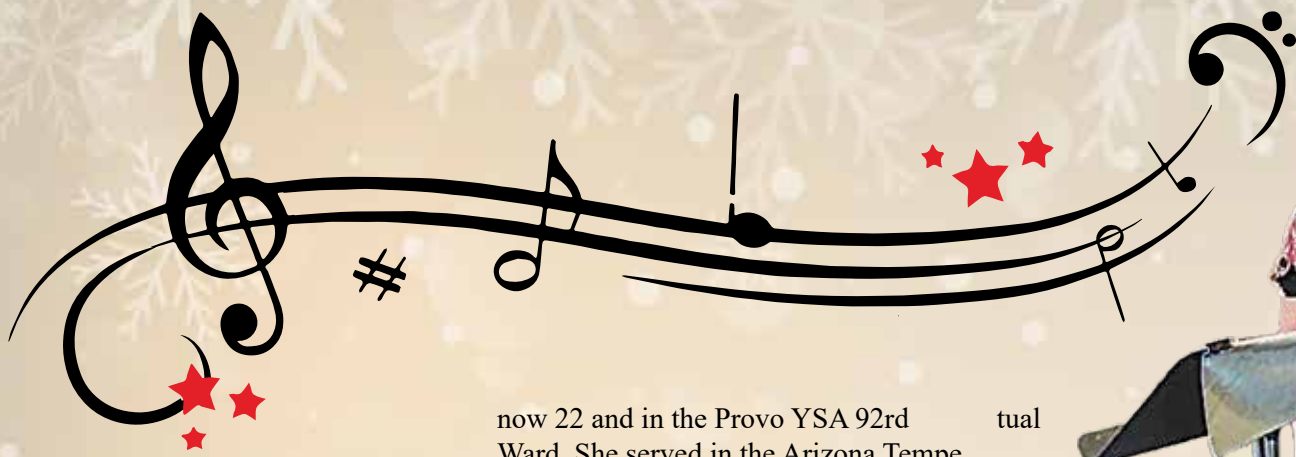
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Angels We Have Heard on High Continued from pg. 1

In doing so, he became aware of their musical talents.

"I love music, and the crazy thing is I found these missionaries that have the talent," Dalton says, his voice choking with emotion.

Over the past few years, he has brought his musical missionaries into the recording studio to record a number of songs.

One of Dalton's favorite tracks is "Lifted," an original acoustic song about the Savior performed by Sister Maycee Olsen with backing vocals by Sister Elisabeth Perdue. The song is an invitation to come unto the Savior.

"It brought me to tears," Dalton says.

Another of his favorites was recorded by Sister Malorie Robbins,

now 22 and in the Provo YSA 92rd Ward. She served in the Arizona Tempe mission between 2017 and 2018. Robbins recorded the classic hymn "How Great Thou Art" for Brother Dalton, who approached her with a bluegrass version of the song.

"I just love the song," says Dalton, "and we did it in a rendition similar to Vince Gill because I loved how he did it. It's simple. It focuses right on the voice. No fancy electronics or horn section . . . it's just the guitar and her magnificent voice."

"'How Great Thou Art' is my favorite hymn," Robbins says. "It talks about how impossible it is to imagine all that happened to Christ. I am drawn to the following line: 'When Christ shall come, with shout of acclamation, and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart. Then I shall bow, in humble adoration, and then proclaim, 'My God, how great Thou art!'" This line resonates with me because it is what I try to communicate when I sing spiri-

tual

songs."

While she humbly claims she's not "the most amazing vocalist," Robbins found that the song she recorded served as an important point of inspiration for her and for her loved ones at home.

"Because I was able to record this song, I was able to send it to people I had taught and to loved ones back home. It was a way for me to remind them of my love for them and of the reason I was serving a mission for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints," she says.

For Robbins, music is a conduit for spiritual promptings.

"Though I was born into a family that attended church, I never really



Photo courtesy of Haley Raines

Sister Haley Raines and Brother Rick Dalton making music.

felt it until I listened to the musical The Lamb of God by Rob Gardner," she says. "This music helped me learn how God talks to me and explained the Atonement of Jesus Christ to me. Since then, music has been one of the main things I use to come closer to Christ."

Sister Haley Raines, now 21, affectionately remembers her time as "Hermana Raines" in the Arizona Tempe Mission from 2017 to 2019.

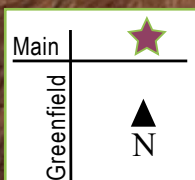
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WHAT'S THE BUZZ?

A sister in our ward spoke in our November 15th Sacrament Meeting about how she had already begun listening to Christmas music and decorating her home for Christmas. Acknowledging that we have not yet reached Thanksgiving, she explained that after a year like 2020, she needed to start focusing now on our Savior's birth and the hope that provides. Interestingly, the day before this meeting, my wife and I Christmas decoration shopped. We had been decorating our home for Christmas for over a week before this talk was given! For the exact same reasons.

To me, this is a testament that even through a year such as the one we are now closing out, the Spirit of Christ prevails. And it is a reminder to focus on what matters the most. For "long lay the world in sin and error pining, till He appeared and the soul felt its worth." A world in commotion has long been prophesied as a prelude to the official return of Christ. However, the people of the world have not been abandoned. Christmas reminds us that "a thrill of hope the weary world rejoices for yonder breaks a glorious morn" of the birth of a Savior. Celebrating this birth a few weeks early to extract some that promised hope seems appropriate right now.

As we look towards a new year in 2021, we share an image of the Mesa Arizona Temple on our cover, captured by our friend Jimmy Paderta. We anticipate that one of the marvelous, hopeful events of the coming year will be the re-opening of this temple. After more than two years of renovation and a famine of temple worship caused by a world-wide pandemic, we all anxiously await its dedication and re-exploring this wonderful House of the Lord.

Here is to hearing the angel voices, both on the night that Christ was born, and all throughout the coming year. The flip of the calendar from one day to the next as we signal the end of one year and the beginning of another has no real magical effect. Only the power in, love of, and hope for Jesus Christ provides that. No matter what any year brings. Of this we testify as members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from The Arizona Beehive.



*Song lyrics from "Oh Holy Night" by Adolf Adam

Michael O'Brien
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Currently in college at BYU-Idaho in Rexburg, she hails from a musical family and has been singing since the age of seven.

"I took singing lessons all through my childhood through high school and have enjoyed singing on many different platforms," she says. "My grandpa was a musician who was born in North Carolina. He grew up playing the guitar and banjo," she says, noting that in the 1970s, he co-founded the Darrington Bluegrass Festival.

In keeping with that Americana tradition, "Down to the River to Pray," a folk hymn popularized in the film *O Brother, Where Art Thou?* was Raines' recording contribution.

Raines was surprised by how popular her recording was.

"Before I left the mission field, I had missionaries who I hadn't met come up to me and say that they loved my song and that they listened to it all the time. I was kind of embarrassed because I had no idea that my song had gotten out to other missionaries, but it was also awesome to see that other people actually listened to me!"

Dalton, on the other hand, has no



Brother Rick Dalton and Sister Haley Raines, who says of her former ward mission leader, "He's one of my most favorite people and I am grateful for his impact in my life."

such surprise.

"They're changing lives," says Dalton of his musical missionaries. "Some of these songs have been responsible

for more than one reactivation and I think a couple of baptisms."

Perhaps Dalton's most unusual recording was a rap called "Chasing Change," performed by Elders Braxton Frost, Stewart Michael Biddulph, Nathan Thatcher, Eli Hilmo and Samuel Badstubner. The song was written in about half an hour on New Year's Eve of 2019.

"'Chasing Change' is inspired by the change the Savior can have on our lives as we come closer to Him. I know without a doubt that as we draw close to our Savior and hear Him, He will change and mold us into who He wants us to become," says Frost, now 21 and a member of the Mountain Shadows Ward, Kaysville Utah Stake, on an April Facebook post.

The song quickly made its way around the mission.

"We would share it with people we were teaching as well as the members and they truly felt the spirit as they listened to our testimony through the song. A few months later, we had the amazing opportunity to shoot a music

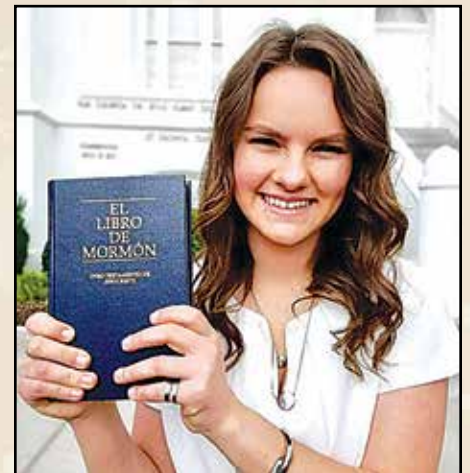


Photo courtesy of Rick Dalton

Sister Malorie Robbins, who sang "How Great Thou Art" in the studio with Brother Dalton on guitar.

video, which now has 6.1 thousand views . . . with no marketing whatsoever," says Frost.

Ultimately, Dalton hopes to produce an album from the missionaries' songs, the proceeds of which will benefit the mission.

"They are truly, absolutely truly Saturday's warriors," Dalton says, referencing the 1973 Douglass Stewart and Lex de Azevedo musical. "We're told that the Lord saved the best for last and these missionaries are unbelievable. Their testimonies are so strong. They're solid. Nothing can deter them from what they're supposed to do."

The title of their upcoming CD of original and public domain songs will be *Come Unto Christ: Arizona Tempe Musical Missionaries*, and while the recording is not officially connected to The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints or the Arizona Tempe Mission, all proceeds will benefit the mission.

CDs will be \$10 plus \$3 postage and handling and will be shipped beginning in January. Mail orders to Rick Dalton, PO Box 135, Mesa, AZ 85211.



Photo by Rick Dalton

Elders Braxton Frost, Stewart Michael Biddulph, Nathan Thatcher, Eli Hilmo and Samuel Badstubner practice "Chasing Change," their original rap.



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Jingle Bell Covid

By Cecily Markland Condie

Community Celebrations, Light Displays & Festive Events Bring Out the Sights & Spirit of Christmas During a Pandemic

Christmas 2020 brings a new way to look at family get-togethers, ward parties, community celebrations and holiday events. In spite of a non-traditional approach and Covid-19 precautions, events across the Valley will feature the sights and sounds of Christmas. Here are some ideas to help you get started:

Nearly everyone could use a laugh this Christmas! Bring fun and laughter into your living room with the all-new network of clean comedy from JesterZ Improv. FunENetwork features funny videos, live streams and celebrity interviews. Get access for only \$15 by going to jesterzimprov.com. Plus, while JesterZ Improv Theater in Mesa remains closed, improv classes are being offered at a nearby location or via Zoom. Visit the website or call 480-423-0120.

ChildsPlay brings A Christmas Carol to the Herberger Theater. One of the Valley's most celebrated actresses, Kate McFadzen, appears in Charles Dickens' holiday classic, a one-woman performance presented under the stars, lights, and chandeliers of Herberger Theater's new outdoor stage, "like you've never seen or heard it before." Recommended for ages 10+, the show runs Tuesdays through Sundays, November 28 to December 23. Tickets (\$15) are available at childsplayaz.org. Also on the childsplayaz.org site, families and groups can enjoy free online performances,

storytimes, music and dance activities, and more.

Chandler continues its 60+-year-old tradition, creating a huge Tumbleweed Christmas Tree, made of 1,000 tumbleweeds that are sprayed white, strung with lights and adorned with 65 pounds of glitter. Tumbleweed Tree Lighting and Parade of Lights is December 5th from 4:30 to 9 p.m. and the tree can be seen throughout the season in downtown Chandler.

The Great Arizona Puppet Theater is currently offering online and drive-in entertainment, with drive-in shows presented every Saturday at 8 a.m. Shows for December include *The Elves and the Shoemaker* and *The Leprechaun and the Reindeer*. Since drive-in shows are presented on a limited basis and showtimes may be added as performances sell out, check www.azpuppets.org/shows.php for updates and details. Make reservations online or by calling 602-262-2050.

Scottsdazzle, Scottsdale's holiday extravaganza, has been modified with new events and protocols to maintain safety. Scottsdazzle transforms Old Town with holiday décor and lights and features events

for every age and interest, from celebrating, shopping, dining and more. Among the highlights will be Old Town Farmers Market—with holiday music, artisan products, handmade gifts and crafts, fresh produce and more—Saturdays 8 a.m. to noon through December 19th. On December 10th, from 6:30 to 9 p.m., a holiday-themed Gold Palette ArtWalk will showcase galleries in Old Town's Art District. Then, December 12th and 13th, the Dazzle of Historic Old Town features hour-long storytelling sessions and an opportunity to discover cherished treasures on the Old Town map.

More Scottsdazzle highlights include a Merry Make and Take with take-home creations, a Festive Food Demonstration with tips for elegant holiday foods, Yuletide Yoga to stave off holiday stress, the Sparkle & Spin Scavenger Hunt throughout Old Town, and the Holly Jolly Painting Party with a holiday-themed painting project. Proceeds from events with a cost will benefit Scottsdale's Vista del Camino non-profit. For details and updates, including information for events requiring pre-registration, go to visitscottsdazzle.com.

ZooLights, one of the Valley's favorite holiday traditions, is back through January 31st. Offering two options this year, families and individuals can either walk through or cruise through in their car to see the millions of twinkling lights, dazzling animal sculptures, and the new Wildlife Lantern Safari, which features 66 lighted animals, featuring polar bears, mammoths, peacocks and many more. See phoenixzoo.org for tickets.

Merry Main Street in downtown Mesa features a 40-foot Christmas tree, sELFie photo stations, and visits with Santa, and Winter Wonderland Ice Rink, where skaters with pre-purchased tickets can enjoy the fun. Also, enjoy Gingerbread Rock, with food, gingerbread decorating, live music, bounce houses, frozen princesses, crafts, games, Santa, light-up rideable frozen sleighs and

more on December 7th. Free Enchanted Storytime, December 4th, 11th and 18th; plus, get into the holiday spirit with free instructor-led song and dance classes for kids and crafts for toddlers at 10 a.m. Mondays and Fridays, December 2nd through 20th. For a complete calendar and other details, visit merrymainst.com.

The Musical Instrument Museum (MIM) has reopened with its exhibit of more than 8,000 instruments from more than 200 countries. The museum is open daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and concerts are again being scheduled. Explore MIMkids resources for fun, educational music-making activities for kids. Located at 725 E. Mayo Boulevard, Phoenix, MIM can be reached by calling 480.478.6000, or visiting mim.org.

To find more ideas, KJZZ.org and KBACH.org, public radio sites, list events hosted by various arts organizations in their weekly e-newsletters. By being on the lookout and being creative when it comes to your Christmas celebrations, you and your family will be able to enjoy the true joy of the season again this year.



Photo Courtesy City of Mesa

The 5,000-square foot Winter Wonderland Ice Rink returns to this year's Merry Main Street celebration in downtown Mesa along with a host of vendors, activities and fun for the entire family.



Photo by Christine Johnson

Scottsdazzle, Scottsdale's holiday extravaganza, now in its 5th year, welcomes all ages and interests with a wide range of festive and fun activities.

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By Emmilie Whitlock

Holiday Playlist

Latter-day Saint Musicians Ring In the holidays With New Albums



Nicolas Giusti and Gérald Caussé album cover.

With Christmas on the way, Latter-day Saint recording artists are helping to light the world—and your holiday playlists—with some winter warbling. Thankfully, there are several new holiday albums from some Latter-day Saint musicians you already love, and some new rising stars.

Christmas Day in the Morning - The Tabernacle Choir at Temple Square and Orchestra at Temple Square, Featuring Kelli O'Hara and Richard Thomas

While the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints has cancelled the Tabernacle at Temple Square's much-anticipated annual concert for this year due to COVID-19 restrictions, you can still fill your hearts and homes with the sounds of the season with a recording of last year's concert. Released October 2, the album features Tony Award-winning actress Kelli O'Hara.

Tracks include both lesser-known and well-loved Christmas tunes, including the "Hallelujah" chorus from Handel's *Messiah*. Emmy-winning actor Richard Thomas performs narrations from the 2019 concert.

Noël - Nicolas Giusti and Gérald Caussé

A Christmas-themed instrumental album was released November 6. Accomplished pianists Nicolas Giusti and Gerald Causse, current presiding bishop of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, perform a series of Christmas piano duets.

The tracks, which include "Silent Night," "Joy to the World," and "What Child Is This?" were arranged by Giusti and are backed by a full orchestra. This album features the beautiful spirit of Christmas with unforgettable instrumentals.

Hark! Holiday Favorites from Deseret Book

This next Christmas gift dropped October 30 and features several Latter-day Saint music sensations, including Calee Reed, Mercy River, GENTRI, the Nashville Tribute Band, the Bonner Family and Nathan Pacheco.

Their Christmas collection, produced by Shadow Mountain Records, features Christmas classics you know and cherish with the new voices you've fallen in love with throughout the years. Find them all together here to join you and yours at home for the holidays.

Acoustic Christmas - Camille Nelson

You may already know and love her brother, renowned cellist Stephen Sharp Nelson. But this Christmas, get to know Camille Nelson, his classically trained violinist and acoustic guitar-playing sister. Camille's first Christmas album, *Acoustic Christmas*, was released October 23.

Her original acoustic arrangements of familiar favorites, including "The Little Drummer Boy," "Still, Still Still," and "O Come, All Ye Faithful," are sure to delight, and also feature vocalists Kora and Marj Desius.

Rejoice! - Calee Reed

While this album wasn't released this season, it's highly rated on the Deseret Book website and other music platforms. Calee Reed, a beloved Latter-day Saint artist, released her Christmas album, *Rejoice!*, last December.

This popular album is worth exploring for audiences who are looking to discover the reason for the season coupled with the joy of Christmas. Reed said her goal for the album was to incorporate both. Popular hymns like "Away in a Manger" and "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" help Reed accomplish just that.

Each album is currently available for purchase and digital download on major streaming services. You can also visit the Deseret Book website for more information and reviews on each album.

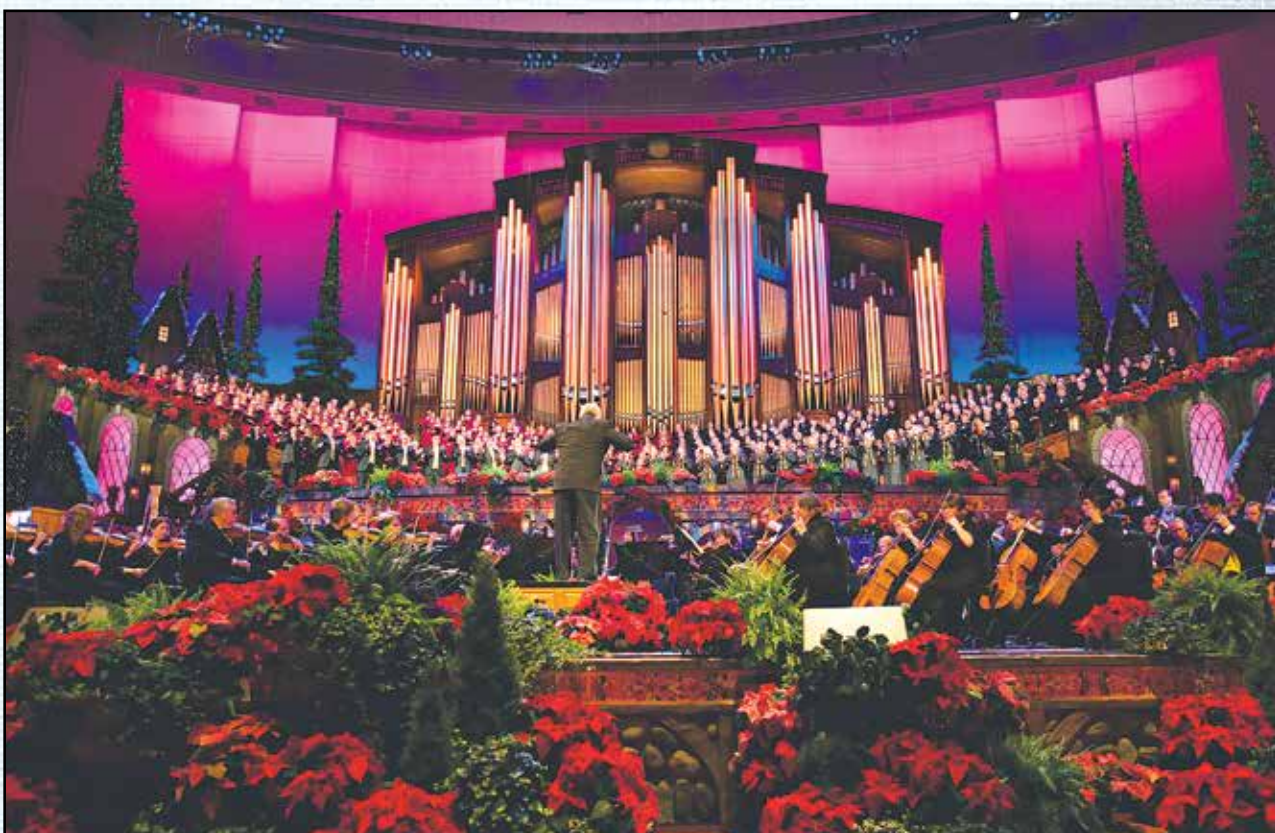


Photo Courtesy Gospel Media Library

The Tabernacle Choir at Temple Square performing in their annual Christmas concert in the Conference Center.

Life Beyond Death

Facing the Holidays After the Loss of a Loved One

By Valerie Ipson

A few weeks after my husband's death in July, I headed to Hobby Lobby. In the spring, I had made tentative plans to redecorate the hall bathroom. After the emotional upheaval of his unexpected death followed by funeral plans and cemetery plot purchases—and endless paperwork and phone calls after that—I needed to do something that felt normal.

As the front doors of the store slid open, the sight of people, and lines, and infinite aisles of “stuff” accosted me. I made a sharp left along the front wall to be alone but I was hit with fall décor and Halloween. Aisles of it. Wait, fall was coming?

Then without warning—Christmas. Rows and rows of Christmas. That's when the tears started, and I ended up circling the entire perimeter of the store to eventually make my exit. I couldn't handle the passage of time, which only increased the number of days since I last saw him. How would I face the holidays?

Holidays mark time. Christmas means the year is coming to its close, but it also means another year without loved ones who have passed. For me it will be the first time without my husband, the first time for my children without their dad. It's a bit of an unknown. Do we carry on traditions or not? Do I even care?

In this crazy pandemic-election year, Christmas cheer seems to be precisely what the world needs. Plus, I have eighteen grandchildren that care. But how will I ever listen to Elvis sing, “I'll have a blue Christmas without you”?

I appreciate this statement on the topic by psychologist Tamsen Butler at LoveToKnow.com: “Honor the stage of grief you are in and make your plans accordingly.”

Grieving is different for everyone, and so is facing the holidays. Some want quiet time alone—to visit the cemetery or to go away somewhere completely non-traditional. Some want family and busyness around them. I think the key is to choose what feels right for you.

But there is one constant.



Photo by Sarah Burton
Valerie and Lance Ipson were married for 38½ years before his death this past summer.



Photo by Valerie Ipson
Christmas tie made by Lance's mother-in-law.

Many years ago, for Christmas my mom sewed a poinsettia-print tie for my husband. He wore it in December, of course, but he always wore it on Easter Sunday, too. He said it was because of this truth expressed by President Gordon B. Hinckley: “There would be no Christmas if there had not been Easter. The babe Jesus of Bethlehem would be but another baby without the redeeming Christ of Gethsemane and Calvary, and the triumphant fact of the Resurrection.” So maybe, for the very first time, I'll celebrate the

true meaning of Christmas. Yes, a glorious child was born but this baby “grew in stature and wisdom” to become the King of Kings, the Lord of Lords. He became our Redeemer, who performed His Atonement in our behalf—the Atonement that even now lifts me and sustains me in my grief. He accomplished the Resurrection which holds the promise of life beyond death—a promise I cling to like never before. He offers Eternal Life, a life with Him, and our loved ones, which for me can't come too soon.

This is worth celebrating.

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Remembering Heaven

A New Documentary Film
From Sarah Hinze



Photo courtesy of Sarah Hinze
Filmmaker Tom Laughlin, author Jeff Olsen and executive producer, Sarah Hinze.

By Katherine Ogden

Sarah Street Hinze recalls having an intense and early yearning to find God and understand her relationship to Him. “From a very early age, I was especially eager to learn about God,” says Sarah. “My search to know Him continued throughout my young years and into college.” After being introduced by a friend to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and joining soon after, she attended college at UVU, where she met Brent Hinze, her future husband.

After marrying, Sarah had unusual experiences with some of her children



Photo courtesy of Sarah Hinze
Filmmaker Tom Laughlin, A. Baende and Sarah Hinze with Theodore Baende (holding baby Isaiah) and Coreena, his wife, who feature in the film.

before their births. “Several of their births were preceded by dreams in which I saw or sensed the soul of the child to be born,” says Sarah. “In some cases, I was even told what the child’s chosen name was to be. I wondered if other parents had these experiences, and soon discovered that I was by no means the only one.”

What began as curiosity became a quest after she received a profound impression that part of her life’s mission was to research, teach and write

Continued on pg. 14



Photo by Mike Freeman and Tyler Goold
Mike and Tyler on launch night for *The Richest Men in Town* podcast.

When setting out in a new year, quality content and support are priceless for making progress towards your goals. One podcast sets out to achieve both, and the hosts make their journey one you can join. *The Richest Men in Town* podcast, hosted by Tyler Goold and Mike Freeman, is two honest men out to learn how best to live a really “rich” life in all the right ways.

Tyler Goold and Mike Freeman were quick to recognize there are so many others out there who likely shared both their goals and their struggles. Starting a podcast—essentially, a radio talk show combined with an audiobook—is perhaps not the easiest way to share a message like this, but their mission is clear and summarized in their own words here:

We believe that there are powerful lessons in the lives of others, and we find joy in discovering these moments. Our relationships with our guests are everything and are forged through a commitment to curiosity, understanding and listening. Humility and compassion mark our journey together. Through authentic and vulnerable sharing, we unveil the richness of a life well lived in the middle of the hard things we experience. We honor these “rich men” as our heroes and their stories are our gifts. We receive them with gratitude and grace.

The Richest Men In Town

LDS Podcasters Explore Richness In Our Lives

By Allison Beckert

and do all that we can to share these gifts with the world, with the hope of lifting ourselves and others to a better place.

Each episode, Tyler and Mike have a candid conversation either between themselves or featuring a guest—someone by whom they have been inspired, taught or lifted by over the years. They discuss, but also plan how to put the lessons they have learned back into practice or to work for the first time.

“The spirit of change, resolution and renewal is what *The Richest Men in Town* podcast is all about,” they say. “Think of George Bailey at the end of *[It’s a Wonderful Life]*, on the snowy bridge praying desperately, saying to God, ‘I want to live again. Help me live again.’ That is the spirit of the work that we are trying to do and the work that we want to be about in the future, whatever that looks like. Life’s too short and too precious to attack it any other way.”

If you are new to podcasts, getting into them can be a challenge. Most podcasts can be played from an app on a smart phone, or over any device with an internet connection and some speakers.

“[Our] recommendation [for a beginner] would be to subscribe to your podcast of choice—and might I recommend *The Richest Men in Town*

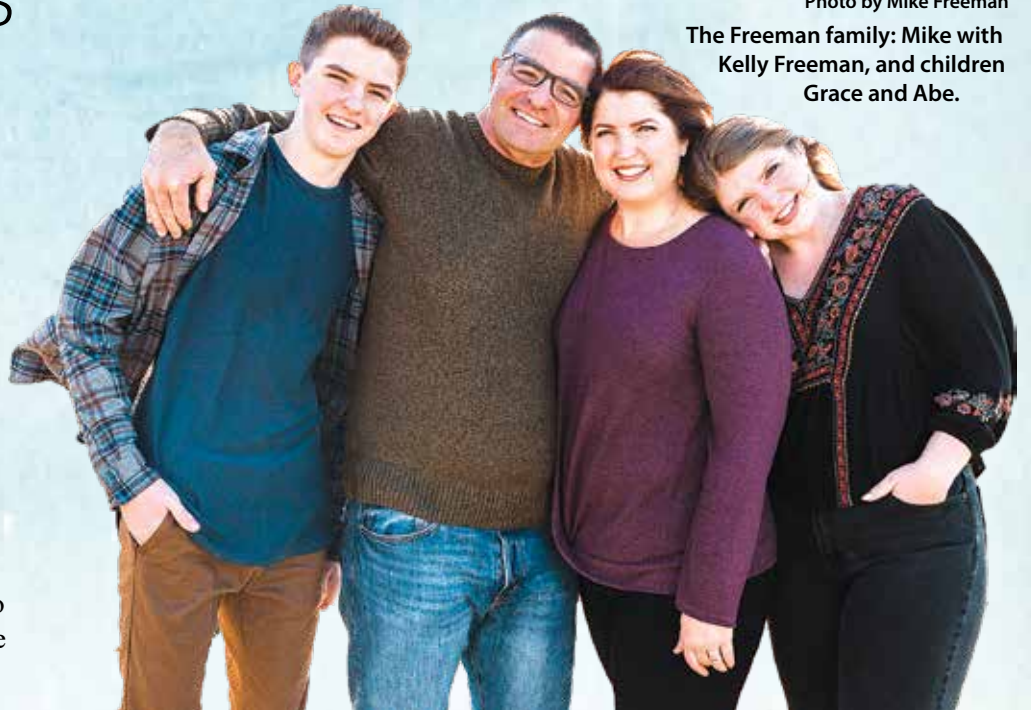


Photo by Mike Freeman
The Freeman family: Mike with Kelly Freeman, and children Grace and Abe.

podcast to start? Subscribing is a great way to get a continuous feed of new episodes. You can subscribe to podcasts across a lot of different platforms like Apple podcasts, Google podcasts, Spotify, Amazon Music, Stitcher,

iHeart Radio, etc. You can also follow us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter where you will get all of the latest show news and updates as well as subscribe via our website, www.richestmentintown.com.”



Photo by Tyler Goold

The Goold family: Tyler with Ricki Goold, and children Sydney, Quinn, Abigail and Gwendolyn.



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Hunger Action Month

By
Emily
Jex Boyle

East Valley Attorneys Help Fill Gaps at United Food Bank

Arizonaans are not immune to the broad effects of COVID-19. This includes families who struggle to feed their loved ones. This past September, Jacob Fleming and Bob Monroe of Mesa-based Fleming & Monroe, PLC, decided to donate 25 meals to the United Food Bank for every estate planning package started during the month's Stand Against Hunger event.

When Fleming learned that since the onset of COVID-19 the United Food Bank had lost over 625,000 pounds of donated food, he said it was "shocking and heartbreaking, and we knew we had to take action to help make up for the more than 500,000 meals that have disappeared from people's tables. Being able to provide 25 meals for each estate planning package we began in September is our way of giving back to our community members in need."

In the last six months, according to Fleming, estate planning service requests have increased 25–30%. More people are taking an honest look at their lives and taking a proactive approach to managing property, finances and the needs of their family.

"Now more than ever we have had requests for estate planning," said Monroe. "COVID-19 has forced people to think about important issues like power of attorney, wills and trusts. Even young families with young children are feeling an urgency to prepare for the future and are making it a priority to get their affairs in order."

Fleming & Monroe, PLC, is proud to be a part of the community where its employees live and work, including Gilbert, Tempe, Chandler, Mesa, San Tan and Queen Creek. Donating meals in partnership with United Food Bank,



Photo by Fleming & Monroe, PLC

When Fleming learned that the United Food Bank had lost over 625,000 pounds of donated food since the onset of COVID-19, he and fellow attorney Bob Monroe decided to take action, donating 25 meals for every estate planning package started in September.

Fleming and Monroe are making a real difference in quality of life for current and future clients.

Established in 2008, Hunger Action Month gives people across the U.S. a chance to come together, bringing awareness to the struggles families face and to the fight to end hunger. Participants are encouraged to take action, volunteer and donate to organizations supporting the cause throughout the month of September for a greater hunger-fighting impact.

Fleming & Monroe, PLC, is a premier law firm with nearly a decade of litigation experience in the Southeast Valley, practicing estate planning, civil litigation, personal injury, employment law and construction law. For more information about Stand Against Hunger or to schedule your estate planning con-

sultation, visit <https://fmlawaz.com/>.

For over 35 years, United Food Bank, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, has been providing hunger relief to people in need in the East Valley and eastern Arizona. Acquiring and distributing food and related commodities to more than 220 partner agencies, the organization serves more than 228,000 people in need across nearly 20,000 square miles. In 2019, the United Food Bank distributed almost 24 million pounds of food, providing nearly 19.5 million meals to neighbors in need.

In response to the economic impact of COVID 19, the food bank projects it will distribute nearly 25 million pounds of food (roughly 30 million meals) this year. Visit www.UnitedFoodBank.org to learn more.



Photo by Fleming & Monroe, PLC

Bob Monroe and Jacob Fleming, pictured here (left to right) at the local United Food Bank. Donating meals is their way of giving back to their community members in need.

Remembering Heaven Continued from pg. 12

about this subject. Sarah learned that from Biblical times through today, parents have had these shared experiences in many cultures. The Bible records some of these experiences, with mothers and fathers such as Mary & Joseph, Hannah, and others.

As she began doing so, her husband joined her in her research. They conducted interviews, collected case studies, gave talks and began to write. With Brent's help, Sarah has published several books concerning remembering heaven and those waiting to be born, including *The Announcing Dream*, *Memories of Heaven* and *The Castaways*.

Sarah had felt for a long time that a film would aid in presenting her research. She remembers years earlier, when Elder Hartman Rector, Jr., stated

that there would be a film after he'd read one of her books.

"There will be books, films, music, art, and various forms of media that will share this important information," said Elder Rector as they visited together at a friend's home.

"I was surprised," says Sarah, "as I knew nothing of filmmaking. It seemed like an impossible dream, but I took his counsel to heart with faith that someday, with the Lord's help, I would have a film."

In 2018, while the Hinzes were serving a mission at the London England Temple, Sarah received an email announcing the Latter-day Saint Publishing & Media Association's Annual Conference at BYU Provo, occurring soon after their return home. The prompting came over and over that she needed to attend, so when they returned in November, she followed her prompt-

ings, registered for the conference and flew to SLC.

At the conference, she networked until she was given the name of filmmaker Tom Laughlin, and her dream began to take shape.

The film shares personal stories of individuals who have accounts of

seeing their unborn children in dreams or visions before their birth. Two top scholars, Dan Petersen and Terryl Givens, discuss pre-existence as described in the ancient texts.

You can learn more about Sarah's documentary at www.sarahhinze.com. Look for its release in early 2021.



Photo courtesy of Sarah Hinze

Mother daughter duo Jana Britton and Brytnée Acuna, whose story is included in the film.



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PREP YOUR MISSIONARY

By Allison Beckert

The Latest News for Missionaries

Mission expectations, resources, qualifications, supplies, travel: all these details and considerations have been changing with remarkable speed. With a temporary transition to online MTC experiences and delayed international mission calls, keeping up to date with developments with the news from reliable sources has never been more important.

The first and most reliable source is official Church channels. Church-wide adjustments in response to the pandemic have been announced directly through the Church Newsroom. While our primary concern here is missionary work, and not all updates are related to the international mission effort, one of the incredible blessings of the Restoration is leadership by a living prophet and apostles. The announcements they make—shared through the newsroom first—are the answer to the

question ‘what have our leaders said lately?’ If you have not yet subscribed to receive announcements via email, this can be done by visiting newsroom.churchofjesuschrist.org and using the ‘Newsroom Notifications’ option at the bottom of the page—simply enter the email at which you want to receive the announcements.

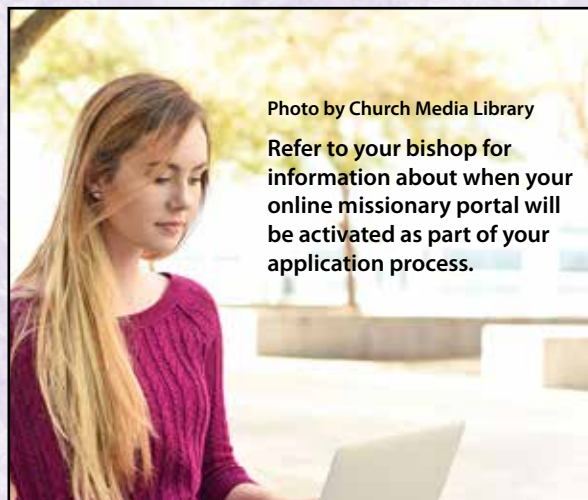
The next official channel for missionaries, prospective missionaries and their families is the Missionary Portal. Available at missionary.churchofjesuschrist.org,

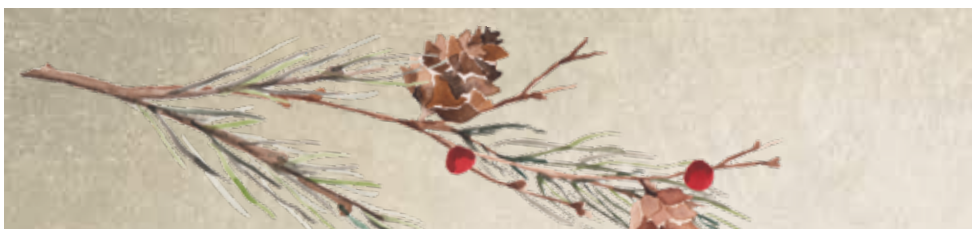
the page requires you to sign in, and the content changes as the application and call process progresses for the person signing in. For family viewing the page, frequently asked questions that direct researchers to resources and ways to communicate with those in authority to give more detailed answers. The preparation question regarding technology is an excellent one, and suggestions are there for apps to help review our tech habits—a mindful consideration by which both prospective missionaries and their family members at home can benefit!

Next to these print and automated channels, the next best sources for questions and concerns regarding the ever-changing state of missionary service are your ward and stake leadership. Developing a good relationship with not just your bishop, but also the ward mission leader and missionaries, the ward’s or stake’s full-time missionaries, and others directly involved in the effort locally is key. Understand that your questions may not yet have answers, but escalating your questions and concerns

can draw attention to issues that affect others preparing for prospective missions in your area.

Finally, show caution and care in any sources outside of these channels. While there may be some interested parties in your ward, family or friend groups, know that gossip and rumor spread freely regarding missionary work and announcements or changes to it. If you hear something that seems too good to be true or that cannot be verified through newsroom sources, the missionary portal or your leadership, consider carefully before sharing it with others or planning around it. Be at the front of the excitement: sign up for releases from the newsroom directly and keep checking your missionary portal for updates.





Kind Natures

Strengthening Relationships Throughout the Holidays

By Heather Sandstrom

What better time is there to strengthen our most important relationships than during the holidays? The holidays can be joyful, but also one of the most stressful times of year. Many people find themselves planning huge events, decorating, buying gifts and budgeting, not to mention dealing with recitals, concerts, parties and family expectations and relationships, especially if they are splitting their time among multiple families. It's important not to let our stress levels rub off on everyone around us, but instead to be grateful, happy, positive and pleasant to be around.

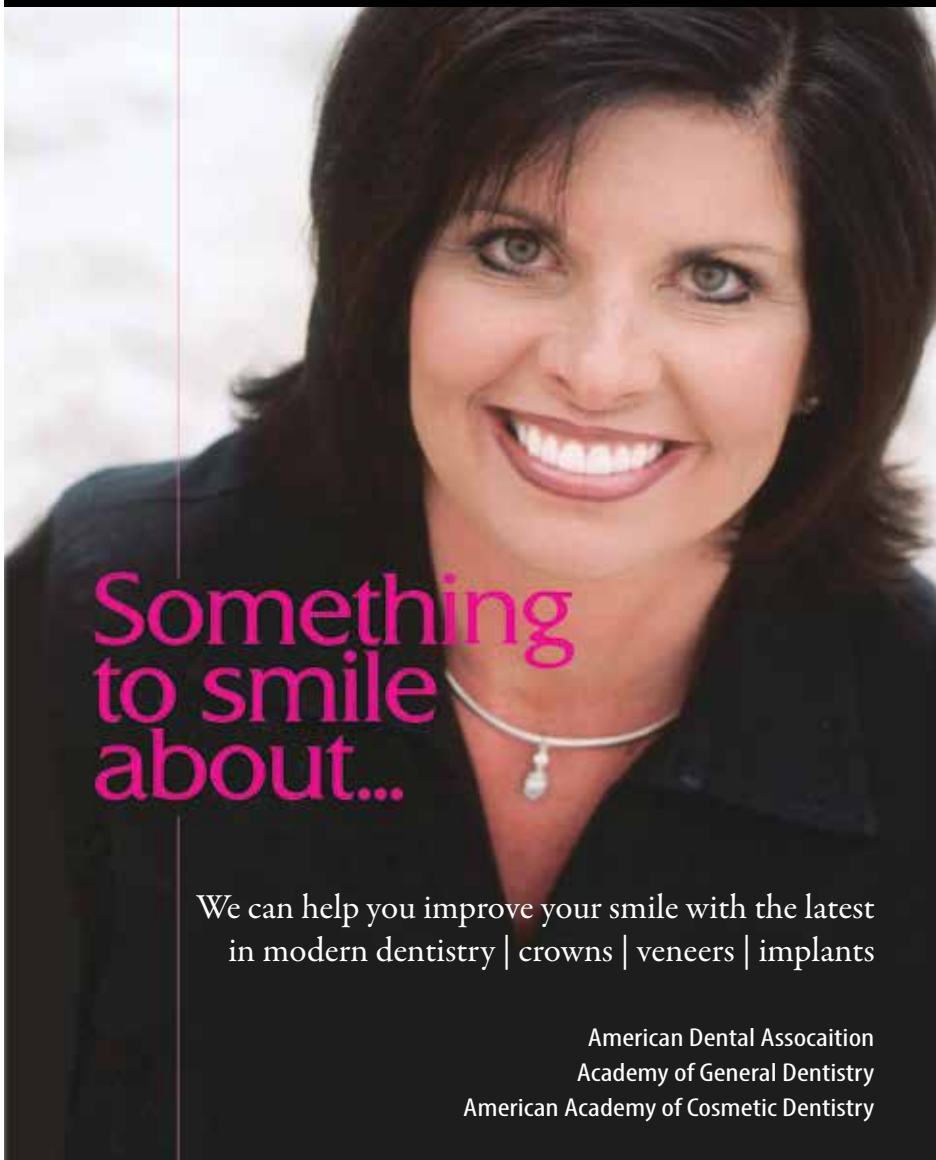
I love the holidays because they are windows of opportunities to celebrate life with the people we love

the most and care about. Life is meant to be joyful and shared with people who love and support each other. The key to strengthening our relationships is to prioritize our attitudes and kind natures. It really is *how* we treat our family members and care about others as we go through our busy lives, especially during the holidays.

Sometimes we need to focus our priorities and attitudes on being happy and grateful rather than being stressed and grumpy. We'll still get our to-do lists done, but we'll have greater peace of mind, make life happier for everyone around us and improve our relationships. Sometimes balancing time with lots of extended family can be stressful. Decide ahead of time your plan and be

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Christmas is a time to "light the world" with family.

Photo courtesy of Heather Sandstrom



Photo courtesy of Heather Sandstrom

Strengthen relationships at Christmas through family traditions and time spent unplugged and together.

content with it.

We can ask ourselves, *What do I see and feel are the true purposes of the holidays? What are my favorite memories linked to during the holidays? Are they doing and getting things done? The quality of interactions with family members? A balance of giving and receiving?*

Think about where you spend the most time and energy. *Who do I really want to celebrate with? What is my state of mind during the holidays?* We can shift our focus from having a sense of obligation to really wanting to experience time and fun memories together. We can communicate with our family members how much we love them and appreciate being with them. We can plan fun activities to do together and really try to be available, happy and intentional rather than frazzled and frustrated. We'll find much greater meaning and joy!

It's a fabulous idea to think ahead of time, "I want to be more _____ and _____" with characteristics you want to work on: loving, happy, kind, forgiving, patient, playful, trusting, generous, compassionate, available, respectful, fun or empathetic. Then, try to be like that!

Make traditions that everyone looks forward to, whether it's sending family Christmas pictures and cards each year, opening pajamas on Christmas Eve, having a family dinner together, reading and acting out the nativity and story of Christ's birth, singing and performing Christmas music, doing service for others, opening presents together, making gingerbread houses or playing games and sports together.

When we show *attention, appreciation and affection* to our family members, we'll find we had the best holidays ever!

Some Things *Are* Meant to Last Forever!

Storing Your Family History Files For Future Generations

By The Arizona Beehive

Professional and amateur genealogists, and families spend years of their lives gathering their family history, stories, and photos. As the years accumulate, so does the amount of information gathered, in the form of photos, film, video, voice files, etc. Safely storing and effectively sharing such priceless information is problematic. Personal computer storage, on hard drive or on a cloud platform can be fraught with issues that do not adequately protect the research, nor provide for easy access to other genealogists or family members.

An effective solution to this issue is third-party permanent storage. FamilySearch and Genward both endorse FOREVER Storage®, and recognize it as *the* company for protecting research image files, enabling such to be passed on to future generations.

FOREVER Storage® is the first guaranteed permanent sharable memory (photos, video, journals, etc.) storage service, providing an everlasting place for families to preserve and share their stories, values, and traditions, allowing for the passage of those memories down to future generations. Not just for “old photos,” the program also provides the ability to protect the photos that you take “today.”



Photo courtesy of Kim Hicks

Kim Hicks, permanent storage professional and Certified Ambassador for FOREVER®

How easy is setting up and using a FOREVER Storage® account? Diane Finlinson Miller of Mesa shares her experience. “This year I got serious about uploading and organizing my photos using my FOREVER account. As I continue to work through my many photos and documents, I am amazed for the first time how quickly I can find what I’m looking for - and sharing with family has been so easy. The ability to access everything from my phone is a game changer. I have great peace

of mind knowing this much needed service is mine to enjoy!”

Jan Connell from Mesa shared her experience with the program. “I really enjoy capturing my photos from my phone/computer and putting the best ones in a photo book. I felt overwhelmed about this process until Kim Hicks - a local FOREVER Storage® Certified Ambassador - showed me an auto book feature on Forever that is perfect for me. As the name suggests, it automatically takes my selected

pictures and puts them together in a photo book!”

A FOREVER Storage® account is secured with a one-time payment, and becomes your permanent digital home. You truly own your account which may be bequeathed to future generations. Each account allows the account owner to pass on all stored information in a secure private system, without the worry of failing hardware or technology.

Janna Carlos, Phoenix, AZ ex-



Photo albums like this are prime for permanent storage.

Photo courtesy of Kim Hicks

of mind money can buy.”

plains some practical application of the program. “Like any other mom, my family pictures and videos are so precious to me. I would be devastated if they were ever lost. As much as I cherished my pictures, I kept them in boxes or old photo books and rarely enjoyed them. The task of dragging boxes of books and loose photos out to look through was hectic and messy,” exclaims Carlos. “All of my precious memories are now safely stored in my own personal, private, untouchable storage account. Some of the best peace

of mind money can buy.”

For more detailed information on how FOREVER® can benefit you, your research and your family contact Kim Hicks. Kim will show you how easy it is to set up your account and tailor it to your needs. Just think you can have everything protected this weekend! ForeverKimHicks.com. 480-577-1930

For more testimonials, find this article on our website ArizonaBeehive.com.



Photo courtesy of Kim Hicks

An example of files in your possession that need to be saved forever.

Come Follow Me

This article supports the readings assigned in the manual titled *"Come, Follow Me—For Individuals and Families"* from November 30 through December 20.

Moroni's Simple Recipe for Success: Acting "With Real Intent"

One of the key points of doctrine that Moroni teaches is that doing things "with real intent of heart" leads to success.

Briauna Koczor of the Chandler West Stake recently put that counsel to the test. The national quarantine was difficult for her family from the beginning. It commenced with injuries to not only one, but two, of her four children. First, her two-year-old took a frightening fall, causing a small fracture in his wrist. Soon afterward, her three-year-old broke his leg.

"It was one struggle after another, after another," she recalls, "and I felt like I wouldn't handle anything else."

Sister Koczor realized her testimony of the gospel of Jesus Christ was weakening. She says, "I kept reading the scriptures, but it felt like a chore. I was just going through the motion." Instead of feeling the joy that the Holy Spirit brings, what she felt was "like mush." She wanted the joy back!

She offers good advice: "When I started reading with real intent again, to be closer to the Spirit, I

started by giving a prayer of thanks for all that I had." It took about a month for her to again feel the love of Christ and feel whole. She finds the intentional decisions she is making to keep the Spirit with her to be worth the effort.

How can we get our families to read the scriptures with real intent and be edified by them? One way is to have them create something with the stories and/or doctrine they discover. Doing so requires intention and focused attention. Here are ideas:

2-D artists:

- a comic strip-style depiction of events, perhaps including wisdom of prophets in speech bubbles
- a crossword puzzle (Find online puzzle makers for free or for a small charge)
- a greeting card—for Christmas or any time. Even a family photo card can fit a short verse on it.



Original wall art by Robin Finlinson

Try reading the scriptures with the intention of finding gems of wisdom to display/share creatively, and turn that task into a fun challenge!

3-D artists:

- a Christmas tree ornament—to keep or to give
- wall décor
- chalkboard art

Musicians:

- a song

Directors:

- a play to be acted out with real people or with toys (and maybe recorded with a cell phone camera)
- a stop-motion video

Socialites:

- a message to share on social media—once or regularly

Scholars:

- a game with the goal of stumping each other with questions about what was read
- a newspaper with "articles" that tell the stories of various events. Have the family "editor" assign certain chapters for everyone to cover. Draw pictures to accompany the articles or photograph each other posing for them.

With the attitude of "We'll see what happens," we might lose a few pounds; we might learn a few phrases of a foreign language; we might have the spirit of Christ fill our homes occasionally.

Deliberate action turns minor results into profound ones. And remember that Moroni's principle of sincere, whole-hearted intention can be applied to all things in life for success!



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Orna-MINT



By Merry Gordon

Boost Your Mood With Peppermint This Holiday Season!

You probably taste it every day in your gum, your toothpaste, your mouthwash, even your dental floss, but the humble peppermint usually doesn't get much notice until temperatures drop and holiday lights go up. After all, what's Christmas without candy canes, peppermint bark and Hershey's Kisses mint truffles? The plant's menthol content is what gives us that wintry blast—but did you know peppermint has health and beauty uses, too?

Aromatherapists say that oil of peppermint, a hybrid of two plants, spearmint and watermint, is an immediate mood-booster. A little in your diffuser

can go a long way towards making a mundane day that much merrier, and few scents have the nostalgic punch of that candy cane concoction. Recent studies have even concluded that peppermint can help improve concentration, and in Japan some businesses even filter small amounts of peppermint into their air as an aid to productivity.

Applied externally, peppermint provides an immediate cooling sensation: a few drops in your footbath can help aching limbs. When added to your body lotion, it will both cool and moisturize, a natural itch remedy in chilly winter months when dry skin is a drag. Peppermint has moderate antimicrobial and antibacterial properties, as well as antiviral and antifungal uses. Minor burns and skin irritations can benefit from peppermint oil, but it's a delicate balance: be careful to dilute it and use only under the supervision of a qualified professional, as too much can irritate the skin. Feeling more migraine than mistletoe this season? A drop or two massaged gently onto your forehead is said to relieve headache pain and tension. If you're really having a rough day, add it to a cold compress or warm bath.

Taken internally, peppermint "helps alleviate occasional stomach upset and promotes healthy respira-

tory function," according to doTERRA—naturally, you'll only want to use small amounts of medical-grade essential oils internally, and under the direction of a doctor or naturopath. If you overdo it a tad at Christmas dinner, peppermint can help keep nausea, flatulence and bloating at bay (just watch out if you're a heartburn sufferer, because peppermint can actually worsen acid reflux). Best of all, a sprig of mint in your water can freshen your breath, a real must in these days of "mask mouth"!

And peppermint is good from head to toe—quite literally! Peppermint stimulates circulation and may promote hair regrowth. Just a tiny bit of peppermint oil in your carrier oil (jojoba or shea butter, for example) gives you a tingly, revitalized feeling in your scalp and helps clarify those luscious locks. Those same antiseptic and anti-inflammatory properties can help control dandruff. Got dry cuticles? Add a dash of peppermint oil to your base oil and let the antifungal properties go to work, giving you polish-ready nails that smell as good as they look.

Peppermint is so much more than just candy canes—rediscover its wintry wonder this holiday season and you'll find yourself in tip-top shape, inside and out!



For a beautiful you
this Christmas, think
beyond candy canes!

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What's Cooking?

BAKING UP MEMORIES

With Christmas Cookies

By Rachael Fuller

Food can bring us together and remind of us special times and people. Two years ago, I had the opportunity to go take care of my nephew Carter while his little brother, Mathew, was being born. It was a busy time full of making freezer meals and treats for my brother and sister-in-law. I was even able to have Carter, who was only three at the time, help with Christmas cookies for neighbors and friends. During that visit, I discovered one my new favorite cookies and they have become a staple on my Christmas cookie list. These cookies take the regular sugar cookie up a notch and do not require any fussy frostings or decorations. Even three-year olds can help make them! Happy baking and Merry Christmas!

INGREDIENTS

1 cup unsalted butter
2 cups + 2 tablespoons all-purpose flour
½ teaspoon baking soda
¼ teaspoon baking powder
½ teaspoon salt
1 ¾ cup dark brown sugar
1 large egg, at room temperature
1 large egg yolk
1 tablespoon pure vanilla extract

FOR ROLLING

¼ cup granulated sugar
¼ cup dark brown sugar



DIRECTIONS

STEP 1: Melt 10 tablespoons of butter in a skillet over medium-high heat. Swirl skillet constantly until butter is a dark golden brown and has a nutty smell, 1–3 minutes. Transfer the browned butter to a large bowl and stir in remaining butter until melted and let cool for 15 minutes.

STEP 2: Preheat oven to 350 degrees and line baking sheets with parchment paper.

STEP 3: Whisk flour, baking soda, and baking powder together in a bowl.

STEP 4: Whisk 1 ¾ cups brown sugar and salt into the cooled brown butter until smooth.

STEP 5: Whisk egg, egg yolk and vanilla into butter/sugar mixture until incorporated.

STEP 6: Using a rubber scraper, stir in flour mixture until just combined.

STEP 7: Mix granulated sugar and dark brown sugar in a small bowl.

STEP 8: Using 2 tablespoons of dough, form a ball and roll in sugar mixture to coat. Place on cookie sheets about 2 inches apart.

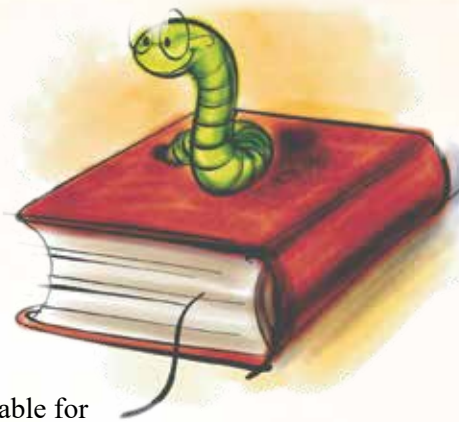
STEP 9: Bake for 12–14 minutes, rotating halfway through (edges will begin to set but centers will still be soft)

Allow to cool and enjoy!



Photo by
Rachael Fuller
Sugary, buttery
goodness!

Three Great Christmas Book Ideas



Beehive BOOK REVIEW

By Cindy R. Williams

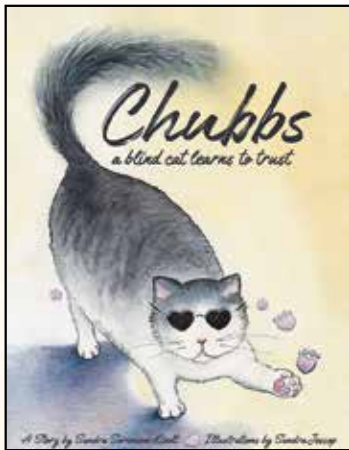
Here are three great reads out in time for Christmas this year . . . a little something for everyone!

Chubbs: A Blind Cat Learns to Trust, written by Sandra Sorenson-Kindt and illustrated by Sandra Jessop, is a great book for children and adults. The pictures are charming and tell their own story.

Sorenson-Kindt says, "This faith-based inspirational story is about a cat who learns to trust her rescuer."

"[Chubbs is] a simple, thought-provoking story about love and trust," says Carrie, an Amazon Reader.

In the story we find a message for all: "We won't always be able to see, control or change what will happen in our lives. Sometimes we won't know which way to go or what to do. But that's okay. If we trust the ideas God puts in our minds and the feelings He puts in our hearts, we can make choices that will help us live more courageously—just like Chubbs."



Cover of *Chubbs: A Blind Cat Learns to Trust*
Book by Sandra Sorenson-Kindt.

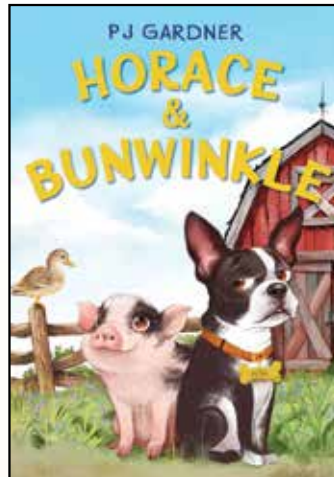
Chubbs: A Blind Cat Learns to Trust is available at Amazon, Barnes and Noble.

A fun middle grade book available for Christmas giving is **Horace and Bunwinkle**, a funny and delightful pet detective story by debut author PJ Gardner with illustrations by David Mottram. Children will be thrilled with the adventures of this anxious Boston Terrier and enthusiastic pot-bellied pig as they solve mysteries in their barnyard.

Gardner's humor shines throughout the story. Along with the two main characters, we read a hand-painted sign on the chicken coop: "Welcome to Cluckingham Palace! Residents: Chicka Dee, Shell E. Winters, Sonja Henney, Eggness Gray, Annie Yolkely and Gladys."

Charming pictures are interspersed throughout the chapters.

Horace and Bunwinkle is available on Amazon and other online bookstores.

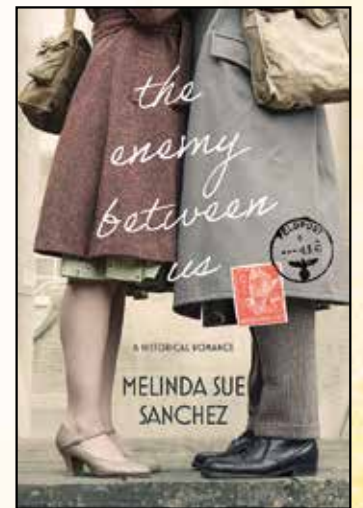


Cover of *Horace and Bunwinkle*
Book by PJ Gardner.

Finally, cosy up with **The Enemy Between Us** by Melinda Sue Sanchez.

A few of the strong, powerful characters in this book are also in Sanchez's well-loved first book, *Fisherman's Daughter*. This historical romance takes place in Italy during the war against Nazi occupation in 1943. There is chilling danger, sweeping passion and opportunities to show great honor throughout this epic journey—it's a book you won't want to miss.

The Enemy Between Us is available at Amazon and Deseret Book.



Cover of *The Enemy Between Us*
Book by Melinda Sue Sanchez.

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KNIT IN LOVE AND UNITY

Local Faith Communities Work Together In Statewide Project To Provide Masks For Local Medical Workers

By Emily Jex Boyle

If one object could sum up 2020, it might just be a mask. In September, faith communities across Arizona collaborated with JustServe.org and LDS Charities to support caregivers in local hospitals in order to care for patients. For a four-week period, Arizona Masks for Medical Workers engaged volunteers across the state to sew 600,000 medical-grade masks to be distributed to hospitals across the state including Banner Health Foundation, Val-

leywise Health Foundation, Dignity Health Foundation and Mount Graham Regional Hospital. Kits were distributed with components for 100 masks. Local churches worked shoulder to shoulder across the valley: Central Christian Church of Mesa, Camelback Seventh-day Adventist, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Pure Heart Church and St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church. JustServe volunteers were physically distanced yet united in a large scale



Photo by Emily Boyle
Emily Yetter, Mesa Lehi Stake, and her mother, Lois Doll, White Mountain Arizona Stake, work together to sew hundreds of masks.

to serve hospitals statewide. Families worked together. Friends visited while sewing and quilting groups doubled their efforts. Neighbors came together, even online, to serve locally.

Reflecting on the experience, Father Muir of St. Thomas Aquinas Church wrote, "Such a positive experience with JustServe. It's a great website to find community service.

This was a great project! The feedback I received is that people were overjoyed to not feel helpless...It's an act of love for their neighbors and community. A woman picked up way more masks than she alone could do. I asked her what she was doing. She said, 'I'm going to get my neighbors to help with this project!' In my preaching, I encouraged my congregation to do this project because we are often in our own bubble. But we can go out of that bubble to serve with others in our community."

Assembly lines moved masks along. Kimberly Earl and Lynnea Williams both participated with other youth from their church in Mesa to sew, clip, flip, pin and sew over a thousand masks.

Kimberly commented after sewing over 100 masks, "I love sewing and I love service, so this was a perfect job for me."

Lynnea told her mother she loved "just chatting like little old ladies while doing sewing projects."

"It was fun to work on this project as a group," Brenda Nielsen of Mesa commented, "knowing we were



Photo by Emily Boyle
Arizona Grassroots Initiative—Arizona Masks for Medical Workers—enlisted thousands of volunteers to sew more than 600,000 medical-grade masks for local hospitals.

contributing to a much-needed cause, and the masks were easy to make."

Andy Kramer Petersen, President and CEO of the Banner Health Founda-

tion responded to the outreach: "We are so thankful for the community's continued support for our healthcare workers on the front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic, and especially grateful to Latter-day Saint Charities in conjunction with JustServe for this generous donation of face masks. As we continue to care for COVID-19 patients and prepare for influenza season, mask wearing will be the norm in our hospitals for the foreseeable future. Donations of personal protective equipment help Banner Health to ensure adequate supplies for patients and hospital staff as we remain vigilant in slowing the spread of viruses. We sincerely appreciate this support."

These days, Dumbledore's wisdom from the Harry Potter series rings true: "We are only as strong as we are united."

For more information, visit JustServe.org.

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CHRISTMAS giving – To, and From, the Family Historian

By Alyson Johnson

As memory gatherers, we love to give meaningful gifts reflecting our passion for family connections. If you are the historian in your family, your loved ones may wonder what they can give you to show they value all you do. Here are some ideas for those who want to appreciate and honor their family historian.

ONLINE SUBSCRIPTIONS:

Webinars

- Legacy Family Tree Webinars: familytreewebinars.com

Conferences

- RootsTech: rootstech.org/
- Institute for Genetic Genealogy: i4gg.org/
- Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy: slig.ugagenealogy.org/cpage.php?pt=524
- Genealogical Research Institute of Pittsburgh: gripitt.org/

Associations

- Utah Genealogical Association: ugagenealogy.org/
- American Ancestors: americanancestors.org
- Virtual Genealogy: virtualgenealogy.org

Resources

- Newspapers.com
- Fold3.com
- MyHeritage.com
- Ancestry.com

Storage

- Forever.com
- Backblaze.com
- Dropbox.com

BOOKS: Specific locality or research strategies

SCANNING: Gift certificate for scanning time; equipment (shotbox.me, an all-in-one portable light studio for use with your smartphone)

For those of you who are the family historians, you want to give something that will help build bridges of love between generations. Here are some ideas:

- Digital scrapbooks: I made and printed online scrapbooks of my parents' lives, and gave those as gifts to them, my siblings and my children.
- Compiled family histories: familyheritagepublishers.com
- Pedigree charts: BranchesArt.com, FamilyChartMasters.com, FamilyTreesAndTimelines.com, GenealogyWallCharts.com, or make and print your own
- Photo puzzle: puzzleyou.com
- Family cookbook: I collected recipes from my parents, in-laws, and siblings, created a cookbook in Word and printed a copy for each of them. The next year I added recipes of mine that my kids liked growing up and gave an updated version to each of them.
- Enlarged photos/canvas prints
- Scanned photos on a flash drive
- DNA prints, mugs, clothing, tote bags: www.celebratedna.com

FAMILY HISTORY GAMES:

- **Pando** (rootsfamilyhistory.com/product/pando): battle your siblings for points to see who knows the most about Mom's and Dad's past.
- **Did You Know...** (theconnectionsames.com): pick a card and answer the question so others get to know you.
- **Roots and Branches** (theconnectionsames.com): a board game where you answer questions (Your Family, Your Ancestors, About You, and Nice to Know) and share fun stories and experiences.
- **Toss 'n Talk About Family History Ball** (Walmart.com, Amazon.com): 24" inflatable ball with questions and prompts for fun conversations as you toss the ball around.

IDEAS GOOD FOR ANY RECIPIENT:

- DNA test kits
- Jewelry – family tree aromatherapy necklace – desertlaceboutique@gmail.com (Gilbert), etsy.com (search 'family tree necklace')
- Home décor - thetapestree.com, etsy.com (search 'family tree wall art')

Join me at www.facebook.com/BeehiveNews to share your family history gift ideas. Look for this article posted there on December 1 and comment on it with your great ideas and links! I will also be posting about family Christmas traditions on December 10 and welcome your comments there. It will be a great place for us to share our collective ideas and experiences—I cannot wait to connect with you!



Photo by Alyson Johnson

Whether you are the giver or receiver, gifts celebrating your family ties are priceless.



Family



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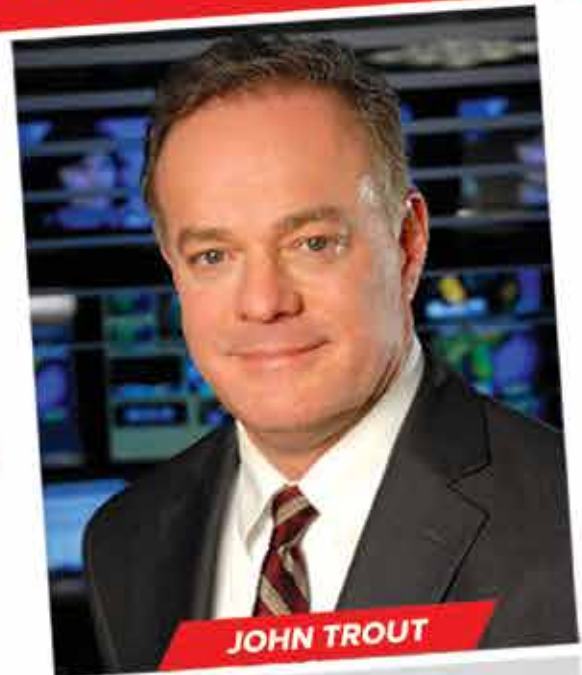
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JUSTSERVE

One Bright Star:

Spreading Christmas Joy to Children in Foster Care

By Hillary Jade Fevrier

Finally, this unorthodox year is coming to an end. While our new normal has caused us to modify our day-to-day routine, the majority of us have adapted and even learned a lesson or two along the way. Despite the many unexpected turns 2020 took, most of us had help and support to endure them, and we are enjoying a (modified) holiday season. Unfortunately, for children in the foster care system, help and support have not always been there, and their festivities are often different from “typical” celebrations.

OCJ Kids is a nonprofit organization that brings opportunity, community and justice to children in the foster care system, and the COVID-19 pandemic has increased the need for help more than ever before. OCJ Kids is the perfect place for those looking for a way to give back during the holiday season. There are few causes more significant than rendering service to children in need. It is inarguable that our Savior showed the greatest example in His interactions with children, and this is a particularly vulnerable time for these youth. Often reminded painfully of what they are missing at Christmastime, they need to feel loved and wanted as much as everyone else.

The annual One Bright Star Bowl-

ing Night is an event that gives children in the system a chance to unwind from the stressors in their complicated lives. Children receive gifts, enjoy treats and games and get to spend time with their peers. Volunteers at the event get a chance to socialize with the children and offer kind words or smiling eyes behind their masks.

There are many ways to get involved and volunteers can sign up as individuals or groups. Some of the opportunities to serve include:

- Donating gifts
- Hosting a gift collection box at your business or church
- Volunteering to wrap gifts
- Sponsoring a child to attend the event
- Volunteering to work at the event

For the full list, visit <https://www.ocjkids.org/one-bright-star-toy-drive/>. The toy drive normally goes from the week before Thanksgiving until the week before the event.

OCJ Kids was founded in 1992 as a program offering a safe place to children to interact after school until parents finished work. Over the years, the organization has evolved into a massive movement that works directly with the Department of Child Safety to assist foster children in innumerable



Photo courtesy of OCJ KidsAZ

The One Bright Star event offers many opportunities for service this Christmas.

ways, especially proving lots of needed supplies that may not be readily available.

The opportunities to serve with OCJ Kids reach far beyond the options at the One Bright Star event. All year long, volunteers are needed to assist in the warehouse building supply kits or hosting collection drives. Interested parties can contact OCJ Kids at info@ocjkids.org.

2020 has been unprecedented in so many ways. Together, we can end it with an unprecedented amount of goodness and charity. Our contributions may all look different, but what matters most is that we contribute with “peace on Earth and goodwill toward men.”



Volunteers at OCJ Kids pose with supplies ready for delivery.

Photo courtesy of OCJ KidsAZ

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Temple Closed During Renovation

For an excellent source of updated info regarding renovation work, visit Mesa Temple Construction on Facebook.

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LIMITED OPERATIONS AS OF NOVEMBER 9, 2020:

Phase 2: Open for all living ordinances only with restrictions

- Perform all temple ordinances for living individuals, with priority given for those who will be sealed. The next priority will be endowments for in-field missionaries (who left home prior to receiving their endowment), then followed by those departing for missionary service in the near future. These priorities will be addressed according to the capacity and scheduling ability of each temple.
- Maintain closure of patron housing, clothing, and cafeteria operations

Please check <https://www.churchofjesus-christ.org/temple> regularly for updates.

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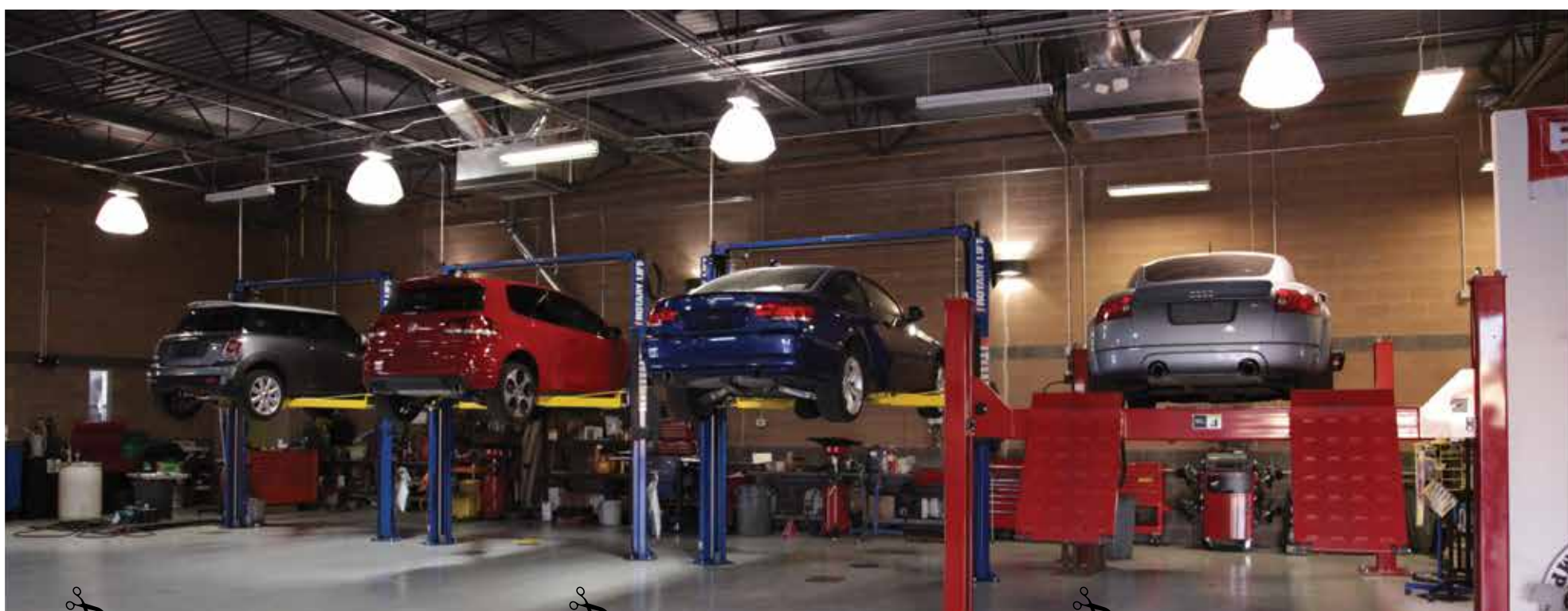
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